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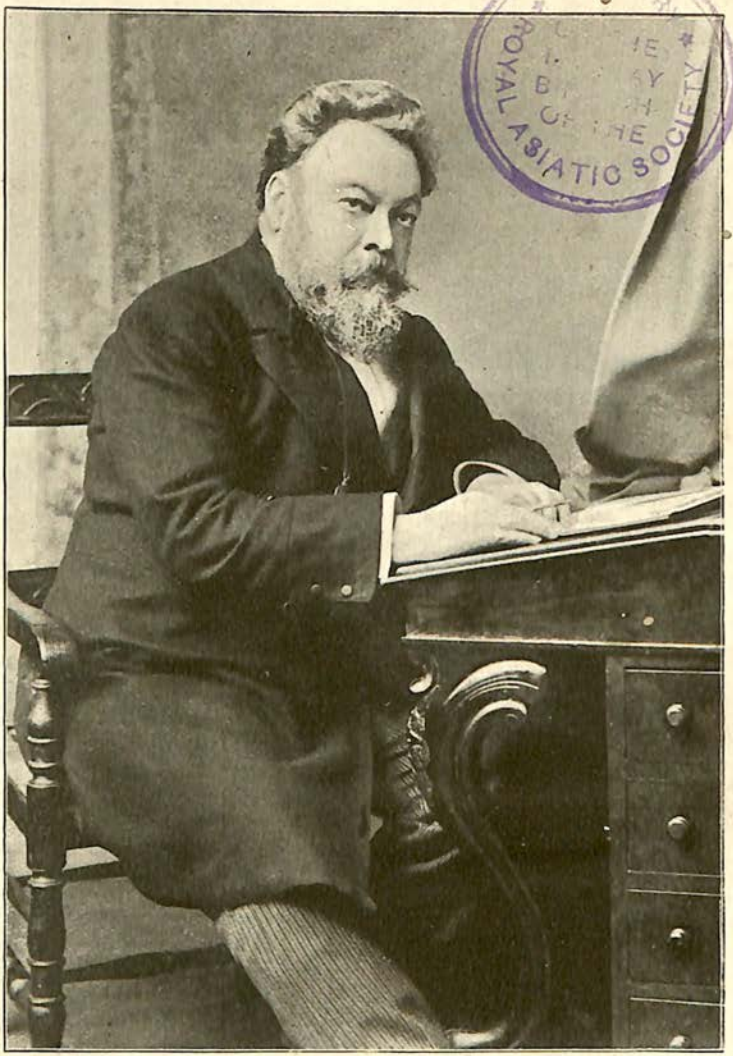
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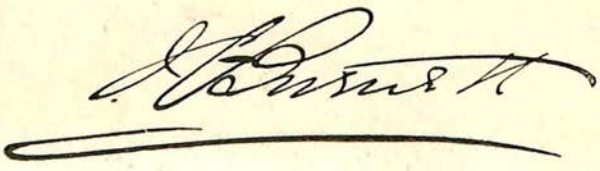

Life and Work of

James Compton Burnett,

M.D.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF

THE BURNETT MEMORIAL

COMPILED BY

DR. J. H. CLARKE

LONDON : PUBLISHED FOR THE BURNETT MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

BY THE

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PREFACE

THE object of this little volume is twofold. In the first place it is intended to put into separate and permanent shape a sketch of the life and work of one of the most remarkable Healers of modern times; and in the second place it is desired to give an account of the movement which has taken place to raise a fitting memorial in his honour.

The form which this memorial is to take has been approved of by a large number of the late Dr. Burnett's friends and patients who have generously contributed to the fund; but it is felt that many more would like to assist if the design and the efforts already made towards carrying it out were brought to their knowledge.

The following pages will give this information. The form of the memorial decided upon is the founding of a professorship in connection with the British Homœopathic Association recently established "for the extension and development of Homœopathy in Great Britain." The chair which will carry the name of Dr. Burnett will

be devoted to the teaching of HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE. It was as an original and resourceful PRACTITIONER of the Homœopathic Art that Dr. Burnett was pre-eminently distinguished; and it is felt that to establish a chair devoted to the instruction of students in this most essential department of the Healing Art would form a living memorial in his honour, and at the same time spread abroad the fruits of his original labours.

Readers of this volume are invited to assist this movement by sending contributions to the Honorary Secretary of the Burnett Fund, Mrs. Helen Clarke, 30, Clarges Street, W.; or to Mr. Frederick King, Secretary of the British Homœopathic Association, Regent House, Regent Street, W., marking their contributions "Burnett Fund." Any profits accruing from the sale of this volume will be devoted to the same purpose.

Incidentally this brochure will serve a third purpose. There is no homœopathic writer whose clinical work is more frequently quoted at the present day than is that of Dr. Burnett; and there is none whose influence is more constantly visible in the writings of others. But whilst this is the case, there are many who have not clearly apprehended the working of Dr. Burnett's mind, and many who have failed to master the methods by which he obtained his ends. By means of the data given in the following sketch medical men will, I

think, be able to put themselves in Dr. Burnett's standpoint and to work out for themselves problems such as those he solved. Students of Dr. Burnett's writings—and every medical man and every medical student ought to study them—will find in this volume a key to simplify their studies.

In compiling the biographical portion of this volume, advantage has been taken of the obituary notice of Dr. Burnett which appeared in the *Homœopathic World* of May, 1901; and acknowledgment is due to the publishers of that journal for permission to use the plate for the frontispiece, which gives one of the most characteristic portraits of Dr. Burnett we possess. It is taken from a photograph by Bassano.

J. H. C.

December, 1903.

PS.—It would not be right to pass without mention the recent lamented death of Dr. Burnett's greatest friend, Dr. Robert Thomas Cooper, which occurred on Septembet 14, 1903—less than two years and five months after that of Dr. Burnett. They were a "noble pair of brothers"—geniuses both, and therapeutists of the highest order. "These two great practitioners held a kind of mutual therapeutic exchange, in which the ideas of each were speedily put to practical test, and corrected or rejected if they failed to stand the test, or permanently established in daily use if they gave

satisfactory response." A close intimacy of many years' duration was rudely broken when Dr. Burnett passed away. The shock of the separation well-nigh overwhelmed Dr. Cooper at the time, and he never ceased to feel it until the time came for their reunion.

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PART I.—BIOGRAPHICAL

CHAPTER I

EARLY LIFE AND GENEALOGY

No one who ever came in contact with Dr. Burnett could fail to be impressed with the fact that he was in the presence of an uncommonly potent personality. Possessed of a rare insight into the realities of life, and of a largeness of heart that extended a worldwide charity to all human interests, Dr. Burnett was never deluded by the affectations and conventionalities of modern society or of the academies. Whilst most medical men only see what they have been told to look for, and see it only in the light they have been told to see it in, Dr. Burnett was able to thrust aside all the academic scaffolding (so to speak) of know-

ledge, and use his own faculties to obtain his information from Nature at first hand. It was this independence and originality which gave him his unique power over complicated problems, and which made his patients feel that here was a man who was not content to form opinions only, but who really *knew*.

It is sometimes not without interest to trace the heredity of talent, and some may see in the genealogy of Dr. Burnett the source whence his own mental vigour was derived. James Compton Burnett descended from an old Scotch family, the younger branch of which came south. A notable member of this branch was Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, a well-known writer of ecclesiastical history who flourished from 1643 to 1715. From him James Compton directly descended.

The name Compton was taken about the year 1770, on the marriage of James's grandfather with a Miss Compton of Hampshire, a lady of large fortune, at whose desire the

addition was made. There were several sons of this marriage, one of whom, Charles by name, married a Miss Sarah Wilson, and James Compton Burnett was their son. On July 20, 1840, he first saw the light. His birthplace was Redlynch, near Salisbury, his father being a considerable landowner in the neighbourhood.

James was a dark-eyed, dreamy boy who grew rapidly, perhaps more rapidly than was consonant with strength of constitution. By the age of twenty-one he had attained the size and weight which he afterwards always maintained—both being much above the average. Brought up in the country, in early life he was left much to his own devices, and was always thoughtful beyond his years. He had an ordinary English education until he reached the age of sixteen, when he was sent to school in France, where he remained for a term of about three years. After this he travelled for several years, principally on the Continent, studying philology, the love of which in him amounted almost to a passion.

At one time he even had serious thoughts of devoting his life to that study. The effect of this is seen in the vivid literary style of which he was master. His unerring perception of the value of words is one of the many charms which make his books no less delightful reading than they are instructive and inspiring. But neither words nor the study of words could long suffice to absorb the energies of the young Burnett, and he finally decided to make medicine his profession. He commenced his studies in the great medical school of Vienna, being thoroughly at home with the German tongue. Anatomy was the subject which fascinated him most, and he devoted to this science two years more of his time than the ordinary curriculum demanded. He prepared many valuable specimens for his professors during that term, and most of these are now preserved in the Pathological Museum of Vienna. It was doubtless this long course of study, together with his own great powers of perception, which

enabled him in after life to diagnose complicated cases of disease with almost absolute certainty.

Having taken the Vienna M.B. in 1869, he entered Glasgow University and studied there until in 1872 he took the M.B. of that University.

Passing through a brilliant examination in anatomy, lasting one hour and a half, the professor shook hands with him, saying that he had never examined a student with so brilliant and thorough a knowledge of anatomy. After taking the Glasgow M.B., Dr. Burnett saw something of hospital practice, and, as was always the case with him, wherever he might be, he could not rest content with ordinary methods, and the results of the routine he found around him. It was then that he became acquainted with homœopathy, and determined to test its merits. The same professor who had congratulated him on his anatomy examination, on hearing later that he had decided to become a homœopath, entreated him to alter his mind, saying he

was convinced that he would reap all honours in the medical world, and that he was throwing his life away. His reply was, "that he could not buy worldly honours at the cost of his conscience," and he continued to fight the good fight of homœopathy to the last day of his life.

Dr. Burnett did not take his M.D. degree till 1876, four years after graduating M.B. The reason was this: It is required of candidates for the M.D. degree that they shall have been in practice two years after taking the M.B., and shall send in a thesis on some medical topic. Dr. Burnett chose for the subject of his thesis, "Specific Therapeutics." The homœopathic flavour of this thesis was too strong for the examiners, and they rejected it in spite of its merits. After waiting a year or two, Dr. Burnett sent in a second thesis, which avoided such dangerous ground, and this was duly accepted.

The cause of Burnett's dissatisfaction with allopathy and his conversion to homœopathy are related in "Reason No. 1" of his *Fifty*

Reasons for being a Homœopath, which will be quoted in the following chapter.

Dr. Burnett's first venture in private practice was in Chester. There he had a very large *clientèle*, his practice embracing a large area of the surrounding district. Many of his Chester patients remained faithful to him after his removal to London, and travelled to town periodically to consult him.

From Chester he removed to Birkenhead, where he remained in practice for some little time.

In both of these places he saw much of Dr. John J. Drysdale and other leading homœopaths of Liverpool. Drysdale he looked upon as a kind of father in homœopathy, and always cherished for him the liveliest affection and admiration. From Birkenhead he removed in 1877 to London, where he carried on a large consulting practice for twenty-three years.

CHAPTER II

HOW DR. BURNETT BECAME A HOMŒOPATH

In the previous chapter I have sought to portray Burnett the student and the man. The history of Burnett the physician is writ large in the lives of thousands who owe health restored or health improved to his genius; and in the precious clinical record of his published works. Of these works the *Fifty Reasons for being a Homœopath*, already alluded to, is one of the best known. No better propagandist booklet was ever published; and it is at the same time crammed with invaluable clinical matter. As "Reason No. 1" and "Reason No. 2" are both in a measure autobiographical, I will transcribe them. Dr. Burnett was provoked to write

this work by some remarks made by a young allopathic medical man who had been asked, unknown to him, to meet him at dinner at the house of a patient of Dr. Burnett's. Over the "walnuts and the wine" discussion waxed somewhat warm and the whole body of homœopaths were stigmatised as quacks by this young medical person, though he condescendingly exempted present company from the stigma. "Precisely," replied Burnett, "the old, old story of abuse and slander of the absent, but no *reason*. Why," he added, "I could give fifty reasons for being a homœopath, that if not singly, at least collectively, would convince a stone." The allopath challenged Burnett to produce the fifty reasons, which he did in due course.

Here are the first two "Reasons" :—

Reason the First.

DEAR DOCTOR,—A number of years ago, on a dull, dreary afternoon, which I had partly occupied at B—— Hospital with writing death certificates, I suddenly rose and

felt something come over me, for the fiftieth time at that period. I hardly knew what, but it grew essentially out of my unsatisfactory clinical results. I had been an enthusiastic student of medicine originally, but an arrantly sceptic professor quite knocked the bottom out of all my faith in physic, and overmuch hospital work and responsibilities, grave beyond my age and experience, had squeezed a good deal of the enthusiasm out of me. After pacing up and down the surgery, I threw myself back into my chair and dreamily thought myself back to the green fields and the early birds-nesting and fishing days of my childhood. Just then a corpse was carried by the surgery window, and I turned to the old dispenser, and inquired in a petulant tone, "Tim, who's that dead now?" "Little Georgie, sir."

Now little Georgie was a waif who belonged to nobody, and we had liked him and had kept him about in odd beds, as one might keep a pet animal. Everybody liked little Georgie; the most hardened old pauper

would do him a good turn, and no one was ever more truly regretted than he.

It all came about in this way : One day I wanted a bed for an acute case, and I ordered little Georgie out of his bed in a warm, snug corner, to another that was in front of a cold window ; he went to it, caught cold, had pleurisy, and Tim's reply gives the result.

Said I to myself : If I could only have stopped the initial fever that followed the chill by the window, George had probably lived. But three medical men besides myself had treated Georgie—all in unison—and all hospital men ; still pleurisy followed the febricula, dropsy followed the pleurisy, and poor little Georgie died. Old Tim was a hardened man, and I never saw him show any feeling or sentiment of any kind, or regret at anybody's death, but I verily believe he was very near dropping just one wee tear over Georgie's memory, for I noticed that his attention was needlessly and unwontedly fixed on the surface of the bottles he was washing. Be that as it may, Georgie was no

more, and I FELT SURE THAT HE NEED NOT HAVE DIED, and this consciousness nearly pressed me down into the earth.

That evening a medical friend from the Royal Infirmary turned up to dinner with me, and I told him of my trouble, and of my half determination to go to America and turn farmer: at least I should be able to lead a wholesome, natural life.

He persuaded me to study homœopathy first, and refute it, or, if apparently true, to try it in the hospital.

After many doubts and fears—very much as if I were contemplating a crime—I procured Hughes's *Pharmacodynamics* and *Therapeutics*, which my friend said were a good introduction to homœopathy.

I mastered their main points in a week or two, and came from a consideration of these to the conclusion either that homœopathy was a very grand thing, indeed, or this Dr. Hughes must be a very big——. No, the word is unparliamentary. You don't like the word——? Well, I do; it expresses my

meaning to a T. On such an important subject there is for me no middle way ; it must be either good, clear God's truth or black lying. A fool the man could not possibly be, since it would be quite impossible for a fool to write the books. And as he seemed to speak so eloquently from a noble spirit, it lifted me right out of the slough of despond—for a little while, but then came a reaction : had I not often tried vaunted specifics and plans of treatment, and been direfully disappointed ? So my old skepsis took possession of me. "What," said I ; "can such things be ?" No, impossible. I had been nurtured in the schools, and had there been taught by good men and true that homœopathy was therapeutic Nihilism. No, I could not be a homœopath ; I would try the thing at the bedside, prove it to be a lying sham, and expose it to an admiring profession !

I was full of febricula on account of Georgie's fate, so studied the say of the homœopaths thereon, and found that they

claimed to cut short simple fever with *Aconite*. Ah, thought I, if that be true, *Aconite* would have saved little Georgie, if given in time at the very onset.

Well, feverish colds and chills were common enough just then, and I had, moreover, a ward where children thus taken ill were put till their diseases had declared themselves, and then they were drafted off to the various wards, for that purpose provided, with pneumonia, pleurisy, rheumatism, gastritis, measles, as the case might be.

I had some of Fleming's *Tincture of Aconite* in my surgery, and of this I put a few drops into a large bottle of water and gave it to the nurse of said children's ward, with instructions to administer it to all the cases on the one side of the ward as soon as they were brought in. Those on the other side were not to have the *Aconite* solution, but were to be treated in the authorised orthodox way, as was theretofore customary. At my next morning visit I

found nearly all the youngsters on the *Aconite* side *feverless*, and mostly at play in their beds. But one had the measles, and had to be sent to the proper ward : I found *Aconite* did *not* cure measles : the others remained a day or two and were then returned whence they had originally come.

Those on the non-*Aconite*, orthodox side were worse, or about the same, and had to be sent into hospital—mostly with localised inflammations, or catarrhs, measles, &c.

And so it went on day after day, day after day ; those that got *Aconite* were generally convalescent in twenty-four or forty-eight hours, except in the comparatively seldom cases where the seemingly simple chill was the prodromal stage of a specific disease such as measles, scarlatina, rheumatic fever : these were barely influenced by the *Aconite*. But the great bulk of the cases were all genuine chills, and the *Aconite* cured the greater part right off, though the little folks were unusually pale, and had perspired, as I subsequently learned, needlessly much.

I had told the nurse nothing about the contents of my big bottle, but she soon baptized it "Dr. Burnett's Fever Bottle."

For a little while I was simply dumfounded, and I spent much of my nights studying homœopathy; I had no time during the day.

One day I was unable to go my usual rounds through the wards—in fact, I think I was absent two days, from Saturday to Tuesday—and on entering the said children's ward the next time in the early morning, the nurse seemed rather quiet, and informed me, with a certain forced dutifulness, that *all* the cases might, she thought, be dismissed.

"Indeed," I said, "how's that?"

"Well, Doctor, as you did not come round on Sunday and yesterday, I gave your fever medicine to them all; and, indeed, I had not the heart to see you go on with your cruel experiments any longer; you are like all the young doctors that come here—you are only trying experiments!"

I merely said, "Very well, nurse; give the

medicine in future to all that come in." This was done till I left the place, and the result of this *Aconite*-medication for chills and febricula was unusually rapid defervescence, followed by convalesence. But when the stomach was much involved, I at times found the *Aconite* useless, unless vomiting occurred; and so, in such cases, I administered a mild emetic, whereupon defervescence at once set in, and though a homœopath now for a good many years, I still think a mild emetic the right treatment when the stomach is laden and cannot unburden itself by natural vomit.

But still this is only by the way: I enter into all these preliminary, incidental and concomitant circumstances merely to put you on the same ground whereon I myself stand; they are not essential, for they only lead to this: *Aconitum in febricula was, and is, my first reason for being a homœopath.*

Have you as good a reason for being a "regular"?

My Second Reason.

Ah! my good fellow, I thought you would say that you also use *Aconite* for fever, and that, therefore, it is not necessarily homœopathy. But do you not know of a certain French gentleman who spoke prose all his life without knowing it?

A man that gives *Aconite* for febricula is a homœopath *malgré lui.* But to my second reason.

When I was a lad I had pleurisy of the left side, and, with the help of a village apothecary and half-a-hogshead of mixture, nearly died, though not quite. From that time on I had a dull, uneasy sensation in my side, about which I consulted many eminent physicians in various parts of Europe, but no one could help me. All agreed that it was an old adhesive something between the visceral and costal layers of the pleura, *but no one of my many eminent advisers could cure it.* And yet my faith in them was big enough to remove mountains: so faith as a remedy did no good.

When orthodox medicine proved unhelpful, I went to the hydropaths (they were called "quacks" then!) and had it hot, and cold, and long; but they also did me no good. Packs cold, and the reverse; cold compresses worn for months together; sleeping in wet sheets; no end of sweatings—Turkish and Russian—all left my old pleuritic trouble *in statu quo ante.*

The grape cure; the bread and wine cure, did no better. Nor did diet and change help me.

However, when I was studying what the peculiar people, called homœopaths, have to say about their *Bryonia alba*, and its affinity for serous membranes, I, —— What?—abused them and called them quacks? No! —— I bought some *Bryonia alba*, and took it as they recommend, and in a fortnight my side was well, and has never troubled me since!

There, friend, is my second reason for being a homœopath, and when I cease to be grateful to dear old Hahnemann for his

Bryonia, may my old pleural trouble return to remind me of the truth of his teaching.

What you and the world in general may think of it I care not one straw: I speak well of the bridge that carried *me* over.

For my part I make but one demand of medicine, and one only, viz.: *that it shall cure!* The pathy that will cure is the pathy for me. For of your fairest pathy I can but say—

> What care I how fair she be,
> If she be not fair to *me?*

CHAPTER III

DR. BURNETT'S EDITORSHIP OF THE "HOMŒOPATHIC WORLD"

THE *Fifty Reasons* from which the above is taken was published in 1888; but the incidents recorded refer to the early part of Dr. Burnett's career as a practitioner, the dates being in the early seventies. Burnett was never the man to let a practical truth lie idle.

There are plenty of people in the world, and especially in the medical world, who are ready to acknowledge the truth and beauty of a new idea, but are quite content to rest with the acknowledgment. They will frame it handsomely and lock it up in a beautiful cabinet, and worship it; but they will not run any risks by putting it to the test of

practice. Not so Burnett. No one so quick as he to grasp a truth in its practical bearings, and no one so quick to discern how to put it to profitable use.

Thus it came about that within a few years of his entering homœopathy he had won a prominent place among its leading practitioners, and in 1879 was chosen to edit one of its representative journals.

And it should be borne in mind that Dr. Burnett was no mere student laddie when he took his first British degree. He was a man of wide culture and experience, and in his thirty-third year. He had already taken the M.D. of Vienna, when he was twenty-nine. So that he was able to bring a ripe judgment to bear on his work from the outset.

In the month of August, 1879, Dr. Shuldham, who had three years before succeeded Dr. Ruddock, retired from the editorship of the "Homœopathic World," then in its fourteenth volume, in favour of Dr. Burnett. Dr. Burnett was already favourably known by his highly original works on

Natrum muriaticum and on *Gold as a Remedy in Disease.* He continued in the editorship until April, 1885, and it may be interesting to reproduce his first editorial or Manifesto from the issue for September, 1879, as it is highly characteristic of the man.

Here is Dr. Burnett's manifesto :—

OUR PROGRAMME.

In assuming the editorial duties and responsibilities of the *Homœopathic World*, it may be well to state, in a few words, what our aim and object will be, and how we propose to direct that aim, to attain that object.

We shall aim at no more, and no less, than the extension of a true knowledge of that part of scientific therapeutics commonly termed Homœopathy, to as many as possible, lay and professional.

We shall endeavour to interest all our professional and lay friends in this Journal, and ask them to contribute to its pages and extend its circulation, so that it may be the literary medium of many on matters medical,

and thus subserve our great object—viz., to spread a knowledge of Homœopathy far and wide.

For us Homœopathy means the law of *Similia* in therapeutics. This is the one bond that will bind together the writers in, and the readers of, the *Homœopathic World;* this only is our cardinal doctrine. All those who hold that doctrine OPENLY are with us, and we with them. The *crypto*-homœopaths we despise; the honest haters of Homœopathy we may at least respect. But we cannot respect the mean men that have crawled into professional chairs with the aid of purloined portions of the homœopathic *Materia Medica* and simultaneous abjurations thereof. These creeping things inspire disgust.

For us Hahnemann is a blessed benefactor of our race, a star of the first magnitude in scientific medicine; we love and honour his name in deed, we will love and honour it in word, let it please or displease whomsoever.

While *Similia similibus curantur* is thus

our one cardinal doctrine, we do not consider that all medicine was a blank before Hahnemann thought it out and worked it out, or that all medical progress was interred with him; for us, it is neither the in-all, nor the be-all, nor the end-all of practical medicine —it is the truth, but it is not all the truth.

We are not believers in authority; hence we do not accept Homœopathy on the *ipse dixit* of its founder, Hahnemann, and, *à fortiori*, we do not propose to ask any one to accept it on ours, but on the evidence of scientific experiment: it *is* true, not because he said so, but because such experiment proves it to be true. We shall hope to fill our pages mainly with material tending to such experimental proof.

So also of the Hahnemannian doctrine of drug dynamisation: it is true, not because the master taught it, but because experiment demonstrates it. We do not propose to weary ourselves or others with supposed explanations of this doctrine; we do not profess to understand it, but the fact is

demonstrably there, and we accept it as such. We propose to bring, from time to time, as much experimental proof of the existence of this fact as we may be able. Not, however, as an *apologia pro domo*, or from the standpoint of the already convinced, but merely as so many experimental facts.

We shall try to keep constantly before us that theories and hypotheses are the curse of our art, and the bonds and fetters that make free minds slaves.

Inasmuch as we have satisfied ourselves of the truth of the doctrine of drug dynamisation, it follows that we believe in the efficacy of the small dose and of the infinitesimal dose. But we also believe in that of the large dose and of the medium dose; the actions of the different doses of the same drugs would, however, appear to be not always identical. This is a great question, and lies as the underwork of a great building that is to be: we can only hope to help to bring up a few bricks. The great architects and builders are few and far between.

Hahnemann's tripartite pathology is a subject that we have not yet been able to appreciate : psora, syphilis, and sycosis we, indeed, see every day, but only through a glass darkly—*i.e.*, in a Hahnemannic sense. Still we have heretofore constantly found him right where we have been able to test him.

The epidemic genius of disease constitutes, we think, an almost totally neglected branch of practical medicine ; we should be specially pleased to see earnest workers in this great field, and contributions on this subject would be very welcome. We shall never *cure* fevers until we know more about the epidemic constitutions of disease.

We do not propose to occupy too much space on mere controversy, on wearisome barren subjects such as " the name of the school " that split us up into petty cliques and factions ; still a due discussion of all questions of interest will be aimed at.

The *Homœopathic World* will continue to be for the people and for the profession ; we have yet to learn that judgment and intel-

ligence reside either peculiarly or exclusively with the one or the other. It will also continue to be exclusively a homœopathic publication, nevertheless we will willingly open our pages to all those *real* truth-seekers who may have satisfied themselves experimentally, and who may be, therefore, desirous of proving either the superiority of Allopathy, or of any other pathy, the falseness of Homœopathy in part or wholly, or the falseness of the doctrine of drug-dynamisation, or the unreliability of the infinitesimal dose.

We do not mean mere subjective opinions clothed in the robes of superlative sapience and dogmatism, and cloaked in pseudo-scientific verbiage, but actual experiment.

Also, only one question at a time.

Prejudice, ignorance, authority, *à priori* tall talk, we will leave as fit food for the perennial babes of the *Lancet, et hoc genus omne :* those who never attain mental majority would get astray without the apron-strings of Mrs. Lancet.

Those who can bear a little stronger food, duly and spicedly prepared to suit depraved appetites, may study a new kind of evolution in the *crypto*-homœopathic *Practitioner*, wherein portions of our OLD literature are being cautiously, silently, and tacitly evolved out of the tenebrous depths of the homœopathic writings of the past fifty years, but very judiciously mixed with old stubble and chaff to avoid detection.

In the *Practitioner* one may also occasionally meet with an old homœopath or two trying to palm off old coins for new. *O sanctă simplicitas!*

It may also be not amiss to say a friendly word or two to those of our professional *confrères*, who from time to time may feel disposed to complain that many articles appearing in this Journal are too simple and untechnical, and teach *them* nothing, or that the editorial scissors are too sharp, and that there is too little original matter, or that the editor airs his own peculiar views too often, &c.

1. This Journal is also and principally for the intelligent public, having for its prime object the dissemination of a knowledge of Homœopathy amongst them; its object is not to furnish a monthly domestic physician, but to teach *as many as possible* what Homœopathy really is. We believe professional and professed homœopaths are the custodians of a great and important medical truth that the world in general, and the medical profession in particular, are as yet incapable of appreciating.

We maintain that those who perceive the truth are in honour bound to proclaim it, and not withhold it as crafty, mystery-loving priests.

2. The furnishing of original matter lies largely with you; support us with your contributions, and we will realise on the beforementioned useful instrument as old metal. This done, the third point we promise you shall be no grievance; we shall be only too happy to confine ourselves to arranging the material you send and to writing out the

monthly "make-up." And if we should suffer from the *cacoethes scribendi* we will put ourselves into communication with the editors of the *British Journal of Homœopathy*, with those of the *Organon*, or with those of the *Monthly Homœopathic Review*, as we were wont to do in times past.

On the other hand, we must say to the intelligent public, for whose benefit this Journal specially exists, first: A medical journal without the literary aid of properly trained medical men cannot exist; therefore, if you at times find in our pages articles that are quite beyond your *portée* by reason of too many technicalities, kindly bear in mind that they may be very interesting and instructive to the profession.

But does some severe critic say, "Then what *raison d'être* have you for such a journal?" This, good friend.

The medical powers that be are so blinded with prejudice that they seek to stamp out Homœopathy as if it were the plague or small-pox. We, however, take

just the opposite view, and find that *Aconite* quells simple fever, *Bryonia* puts an end to pleurisy, and *Colocynth* cures the colic, said medical powers notwithstanding. We are free men, and we refuse to allow our rights to free thought and free action to be trampled under foot by any earthly powers whatsoever. It is useless to prate about peace, there is no peace but the peace of the manacled and of the fettered.

Unless we omit the word Homœopathy, and also the honourable name of its founder, from our writings, the trades-unionist journals of medicine refuse to print them. Now we will not only not omit them, but WE WILL have them WRIT LARGE, because of the important truths they symbolise.

This is the *raison d'être* of all our journals.

Does a hyper-professional *confrère* say, "But keep medical matters for medical men"?

Da liegt der Hund begraben. SOME third party MUST be made judge, and the *only*

third party that remains *is* the public! And were it not for the public *you*, our hyper-professional homœopathic *confrère*, would be by law forbidden to practise homœopathically, or even if you escaped the law directly *your college would take away your diploma*, and thus outlaw you.

This is putting the matter from an intra-professional and selfish standpoint.

Now let us widen our field a little, and inquire, Who is the public? We ourselves, and our own immediate blood relations, are factors in that sum. While living in health and vigour we can treat ourselves, one another, our wives and children homœopathically; but let health and vigour depart, and where are *we* and *ours?* Away back in polypharmaceutic chaos! Our children get the cholera, but infallible physic has no faith in *Camphor*, or *Cuprum*, or *Arsenicum*, or *Veratrum:* then where are they, and the toil of seven decades of scientific medicine? Buried.

We were born free, we will live free,

we will die free, and freedom shall be our children's heritage. To those who would forge fetters that they may lead us into bondage we declare war to the bitter end. Homœopaths may not rest till due honour is accorded to Hahnemann, they may not rest till Homœopathy is OPENLY taught in all our medical schools, they *can* not rest till *all* disabilities affecting them have been swept away.

Thus wrote Burnett in 1879. His words are as true to-day as on the day he penned them—and as much needed. Now, some twenty odd years after he sent his message to the world, the British Homœopathic Association has arisen to carry forward the programme of advance he designed; and it is but justice that in the College of Homœopathy that is to be, one of the professorial chairs is destined to bear his name.

In May, 1885, I took over from him the editorship of the journal; but the editorial change made no alteration in the policy of the *Homœopathic World.*

CHAPTER IV

DR. BURNETT'S BOOKS

As every writer is his own best biographer, it will be useful to give in chronological order a complete list of Dr. Burnett's separate works. The first editions alone are indicated, but many of them have passed through several. The works are named in the order in which they were published, and under the date of their publication, so that it will be easy to follow the progress of their author's mind. It will be seen that not many years passed by unfruitful, and the preparation of later editions occupied some of the years when no new work appeared.

1878.

1. Natrum Muriaticum; as Test of the Doctrine of Drug Dynamisation. 12mo.

1879.

2. Gold as a Remedy in Disease. 12mo.

1880.

3. On the Prevention of Hare-lip, Cleft-palate, and other Congenital Defects.
4. Ecce Medicus, or Hahnemann as a Man and as a Physician and the Lessons of his Life.
5. Curability of Cataract with Medicines. 12mo.
6. Diseases of the Veins. 12mo.

1882.

7. Supersalinity of the Blood; an Accelerator of Senility and Cause of Cataract. 12mo.
8. Valvular Disease of the Heart. 18mo.

1886.

9. Diseases of the Skin. 12mo.

1887.

10. Diseases of the Spleen. 12mo.

1888.

11. Fifty Reasons for being a Homœopath.

12. Fevers and Blood Poisoning, and Their Treatment, with Special Reference to the Use of *Pyrogenium*. 12mo.
13. Tumours of the Breast. 12mo.

1889.

14. On Neuralgia; its Causes and its Remedies.
15. Cataract: Nature, Causes, and Cure. 12mo.

1890.

16. Five Years' [later edition, Eight Years'] Experience in the Cure of Consumption by its own Virus (*Bacillinum*). 12mo.
17. On Fistula, and its Cure by Medicines. 12mo.

1891.

18. Greater Diseases of the Liver. 12mo.

1892.

19. Ringworm; Constitutional Nature and Cure.
20. Vaccinosis and its Cure by *Thuja*, with Remarks on Homœoprophylaxis. 12mo.

1893.

21. Curability of Tumours by Medicines. 12mo.

1895.

22. Gout and its Cure. 12mo.

23. Delicate, Backward, Puny and Stunted Children. Foolscap 8vo.

1896.

24. Organ Diseases of Women. Foolscap 8vo.

1898.

25. The Change of Life in Women, and the Ills and Ailings Incident Thereto.

1901.

26 Enlarged Tonsils Cured by Medicines.

This list of Dr. Burnett's books conveys but a partial idea of his literary activity. Not only his own journal, the *Homœopathic World*, but the *British Journal of Homœopathy* and other homœopathic journals contain many of his writings.

Among these writings not the least impor-

tant relate to his "provings" of remedies. As is well known, the homœopathic materia is built up of "provings." This word "proving" is one of the technical terms of homœopathy. Homœopathy requires that drugs shall be tested on *healthy* persons, before they are given to the sick. Hahnemann himself made the first "provings" on his own person. That is, he took drugs, being himself in health, and noted their effects. These effects arranged and classified comprise the original homœopathic materia medica. This has been largely added to since Hahnemann's time. It may be supposed that Burnett, who always liked first-hand information, was not slow to elicit in his own body the effects of drugs he wished to study. Indeed he was an intrepid prover, as his proving of *Condurango*, (*British Journal of Homœopathy*, July, 1875) alone would suffice to show. But Burnett made provings of many other remedies. Some of these he published, and some have never yet seen the light. He proved the

nosode of tubercle, as is mentioned in his *Cure of Consumption.* But he proved the viruses of other diseases also, and these he would have published if his life had been prolonged. It should be the duty of every Homœopathic practitioner to follow this example set by all the pioneers of homœopathy, and add by their own personal experience to the general treasury of homœopathic medicine.

It may be mentioned that No. 4 of the above list, "Ecce Medicus," constituted Dr. Burnett's Hahnemann Oration for the year 1880. This was during the active career of the London School of Homœopathy, Dr. Burnett holding for a brief period the lectureship of Materia Medica in succession to Dr. Hughes.

CHAPTER V

DR. BURNETT'S HEROES

It is of no little interest, in reviewing the character of a man, to know who were the persons who aroused in him the highest admiration. I am here dealing with Burnett the physician and the medical writer. In the world of medicine, who were they who excited his highest respect? We may find the answer to some extent in the dedications of his works.

The second American edition of Burnett's *Curability of Tumours by Medicines* bears this dedication: "To the memory of the Father of Scientific Homœopathy in Great Britain, John J. Drysdale, M.D., this little volume is Dedicated in Affection, Admir-

ation, and Gratitude by The Author." It may fairly be said that John Drysdale was Burnett's chief hero among his contemporaries. There was no one better able to appreciate—or more ready to express generous appreciation of—his contemporaries than Burnett, but the affection and almost reverence with which he always spoke of Drysdale were beyond anything the writer has heard him say of others. Liverpool has been a fertile nursing-ground of homœopaths, and it is largely to Dr. Drysdale's influence, in general medicine as well as in homœopathy, that it was so. His high attainments and his lofty character made him a natural leader in the ranks of Hahnemann's followers, and, like Burnett himself, Drysdale was entirely free from any of the littlenesses and paltry jealousies that not unfrequently arise in professional coteries.

Another Liverpool homœopath to whom Burnett has dedicated one of his works is Dr. Alfred E. Hawkes. This is the dedication of the *Fifty Reasons*: "To

Alfred E. Hawkes, M.D., for having induced him to put the Homœopathy of Hahnemann to the test in bedside experience, these 'Fifty Reasons' are gratefully dedicated by The Author." Dr Burnett is not the only one who owes his introduction to homœopathy to Dr. Hawkes. The present editor of the *Homœopathic World* is equally indebted to Dr. Hawkes for the like inestimable service.

Dr. Burnett's *Greater Diseases of the Liver* is dedicated thus: "To the memory of Rademacher, the Resuscitator of Paracelsic Organopathy, these pages are gratefully dedicated by The Author." That was in 1891. But some years before, Burnett had devoted a book more or less to the praise of Rademacher, to wit, his *Diseases of the Spleen.* This was written by Burnett in consequence of some remarks in disparagement of Rademacher which had been made at one of the annual meetings. In this work, more than in any other, will be found explained the principles of Rade-

macher's therapeutic method, which Burnett regarded as homœopathy in its first degree.

"To Henry Goullon, M.D., of Weimar, Germany, by his faithful friend, The Author," is the dedication of the work on *Tumours of the Breast* (1888).

With one exception, the personal element appears in these dedications: they are to men whom Burnett knew and loved personally as well as admired. The chief hero of Burnett, as of all homœopaths, was the master, Hahnemann. His transcendent genius aroused in Burnett an admiration that was nearly allied to awe: his whole professional life was devoted to an exemplification of the science Hahnemann revealed and the art he taught. But this was no slavish admiration, either, as may be seen from the Manifesto quoted in Chapter IV.

Yet another mighty genius of the therapeutic world commanded Dr. Burnett's unstinted homage, and that is Paracelsus.

Paracelsus he regarded as a forerunner of Hahnemann, travelling on the same lines in the discovery of specifics. He sought and found specific correspondences, and was able, through his knowledge of what Burnett has termed first-grade homœopathy, to effect most startling cures.

Burnett regarded Paracelsus as a man far in advance of his time, who adopted a style of writing calculated to conceal his meaning from ignorant readers, whilst at the same time making it sufficiently plain to the initiated. Certainly Burnett found many therapeutic gems among the wrappings; as doubtless also did Hahnemann himself. Burnett's admiration of Paracelsus will be in constant evidence throughout the remaining portion of this work. It may be fairly said that he ranks second only to Hahnemann himself in Burnett's Calendar of Medical Heroes.

CHAPTER VI

DR. BURNETT AS FARMER

In "Reason No. 1" of the *Fifty Reasons* Dr. Burnett has told of his "half determination to go to America and turn farmer," in his despair at the results of regular medicine. The fact is, Burnett had a passionate love of the country, in which he had been brought up, and of farming and gardening pursuits. Though he practised in London, he never *lived* in London for any length of time. During much of the time his home was in the country, and when the opportunity offered he farmed his own land, raised stock, and planted waste places with trees. It gave him infinite delight to see his nurselings grow. Not long

before he died he was enjoying the sight of some flourishing apple-trees of his own planting, on the grounds of a tenant of his, who remarked how much enjoyment he had had from the fruit of the trees. "Not a bit more pleasure than I have," said Burnett, "in seeing to what they have grown." This love of the country and knowledge of plants "at home," so to say, had no small influence on Burnett's work. It is one thing to know our remedies in bottles; but it is very much more to know the living sources from which the distilled essences are derived. Burnett used to say that if he were cast ashore on an island without books or drugs, he would soon provide himself with a materia medica from the vegetation of the place. By this he meant that by provings and by observations of the physical characters of the plants he would soon be able to provide himself with a workable homœopathic pharmacopœia. Another saying of his was that no man in the country need go more than

half a mile from his own door to find a remedy for any malady that might afflict him, provided he knew how to read the plants that grew all around.

Dr. Burnett looked upon the physician's work as closely analogous to that of a gardener. In one of his books he worked out this idea with some fulness. The doctor's position, he said, is like that of a "gardener who, for instance, wants to grow apples. Only Nature can grow apples; but then it is crab-apples that she grows unaidedly, not edible apples. No gardener can grow apples or crabs of himself; that has to be done by Nature herself organically. But although no gardener can grow either crabs or apples of himself, yet, guided by human wit and experience, the gardener can compel Nature to grow apples of the finest sorts and varieties; he need not ask Nature's permission at all, he merely arranges Nature's forces so that she produces the apples required. This, I take it, is the true

position of the physician. It is only Nature that can heal anything really, and yet Nature cannot heal many things at all till the physician gardener arranges her forces so as to compel Nature to grow apples in lieu of crabs; the physician's position is like an apple-grower's, further in that Nature requires *time* to grow apples; so also is it with Nature's healing ways, Nature requires time; and any attempt to cure in less time than she needs for her organic processes results in a failure—absolute failure" (*Enlarged Tonsils*, pp. 18, 19).

To this it may be added that very much of Dr. Burnett's great success in practice lay in the fact that he *demanded plenty of time* before he would undertake the treatment of a chronic case. Most patients only expect present alleviation, and most doctors are content if they can bring this about. But homœopathy is capable of much greater work than this, and this greater work was Burnett's constant aim; and he demanded the conditions necessary to its

accomplishment. "I call him the three-years' doctor," said one of his patients whom he cured of asthma; "I asked him how long it would take to cure me, and he said 'two years'—it took him *three*."

CHAPTER VII

LAST DAYS

THERE was a directness about Burnett which led him to the centre of a situation more quickly than most; a fund of humour, a merry twinkle in his eye and a laugh that will long live in the memory of all who knew him. The absorbing nature of his work gave him little time for physical exercise; and though his playfulness of disposition did not desert him up to the last hours of his life, there had not been wanting some signs of the approaching end, though they were not in themselves such as to cause undue apprehension. Some years before he had had attacks of vomiting, which gave his friends

uneasiness, but these passed completely away. Of late it had been noticed that he was unusually deliberate in going upstairs, and the night before he died some patients on whom he called noticed that his hands were icy-cold—a thing most unusual with him: in the coldest weather his hands were usually warm. He dined as usual at his hotel, and as he retired to his room seemed in exactly his usual state. It was only in the morning, when his breakfast and cab were kept waiting, that the sad discovery was made that he must have passed away just as he was retiring to rest. The holiday he had denied himself so long had come at last, but in a way that prostrated all his loved ones with grief. The great heart had worn itself out.

Was Dr. Burnett aware of his approaching end? From one or two sayings casually let drop it would almost appear that he was; but, on the other hand, if he was, the consciousness did not abate his natural cheerfulness one iota. Some three or four weeks

before the end a friend whom he met asked him how he was keeping? "Well," he replied, "you can't work an old horse too long, but it will fall." A patient had asked him if he did not get tired by seeing so many people. "No," he replied; "I love it; it is my life. My only hope is that I may die in harness." The death of a brother about a fortnight before his own seems to have affected him deeply; and just a fortnight before his death he made a new will. The day preceding his death, being Sunday, after walking half the distance he usually walked, he turned back, as he felt some pain at the chest. In response to the anxiety of his family he said he thought it was only a little indigestion, "though," he added in a casual way, half speaking to himself, "it's rather like angina pectoris." He persisted in going to town the following day, and no one noticed any falling off in his work.

Obituary notices appeared in the *Times* on Friday, April 5th, and in the *Westminster*

Gazette of Thursday, April 4th, and in other newspapers. Subjoined are the two named in the order given :—

"By the sudden death of Dr. James Compton Burnett, of 86, Wimpole Street, and 2, Finsbury Circus, London loses one of its most prominent physicians, and homœopathy a leading exponent. Dr. Burnett was an M.D. of Glasgow University and also of Vienna, at which city he spent several years, both as a student and as assistant to the celebrated Professor Skoda. He began practice in Chester, and removed later on to Birkenhead, whence he came to London. He was for several years editor of the *Homœopathic World*, which post he relinquished in 1885 owing to the demands made upon his time by his increasing practice. Dr. Burnett was a ripe scholar and a very prolific writer on medical subjects. His familiarity with the medical literature of Germany and France enabled him to draw on sources of information not open to all. Among his best-known works are *The Cure of Consumption by its own Virus*, *Gout*, and *Diseases of the Spleen*. The force of his personality was felt by all who came in contact with him, and his patients were attached to him in a more than ordinary degree. His devotion to his profession was the absorbing passion of his life. For many years he had taken no holiday longer than five days at a time, and it is probably to this excessive strain that the sudden failure of his powers is due. The cause of death was disease of the heart. He leaves a widow and family." —*Times*.

"Many will regret to hear of the death of Dr. James Compton Burnett, of 86, Wimpole Street, and 2, Finsbury Circus. Dr. Burnett was found dead at his hotel (Holborn Viaduct Hotel) on Tuesday morning [April 2nd]. He took the M.D. of Glasgow in 1876, having previously taken the M.B. degree of Vienna in 1869. He began practice in Chester and afterwards practised in Birkenhead, before coming to London. He was for several years editor of the *Homœopathic World*, and was for a short time on the staff of the London Homœopathic Hospital. For many years he has carried on one of the largest consulting practices in London, and his sudden removal has caused widespread dismay among his *clientèle*, who were attached to him in no common degree. He was the author of many works on medical subjects and was the greatest living exponent of the Paracelsic doctrine of organopathy, especially as set forth in the works of Rademacher. He had the true literary gift, and his writings bear as well the stamp of his strong personality and therapeutic genius."—*Westminster Gazette.*

Dr. Ussher, who has himself since passed over to the majority, wrote of him in words which will be echoed by many whose acquaintance with him was chiefly through his works: "Yesterday's post brought me the last of Dr. Burnett's books, and with it came the intimation of his sudden death. My sympa-

thies go forth to his wife, though I do not know her ; and of Burnett I knew but little, though his books were my companions for many years. He was an honest heart ; and an unique style of his own always made his books a *real enjoyment* to me ; they gave me new lines of thought, and if for nothing less I am deeply indebted to him for his *Vaccinosis*, and the deep worth of *Bacillinum*."

CHAPTER VIII

SOME NOTES OF APPRECIATION

It may be well to present in a chapter to themselves some of the numerous appreciatory articles which were called forth by Dr. Burnett's death. Naturally the journal which he himself at one time edited was more keenly affected by his loss than any other, and therefore the leading article of the *Homœopathic World* of May 1, 1901, shall take the first place among them.

"BURNETT.

"Some great men outlive their reputations, and, when they die, the chief sentiment aroused by their departure is one of mild astonishment that they have been so recently

alive. It was not so with Burnett: in the very height of his fame and activity he leaves the scene of his labours—and the world of homœopathy; the numbers who had learned to look to him for their health, restored or preserved; the friends whom his generous heart and brilliant qualities had drawn about him with imperishable bonds; and, above all, his own beloved family circle into which it was his delight to retire from the burden of his London practice—all are shocked beyond measure by the great void left by his sudden departure.

"It was Burnett's hope, expressed not long ago, that he might 'die in harness.' This hope is fulfilled: he paid his last professional visit within a few hours of the end. Burnett was not the man to shrink from his lot wherever it might find him; and we may gather some small consolation from this, that no one will remember him in anything but the height of his powers. There was no period of decadence; no tedious time of partnership of a great intellect with crippled

bodily powers. The Burnett of our possession is the man we should most wish to hold in our remembrance.

"It is not too much to say that during the last twenty years Burnett has been the most powerful, the most fruitful, the most original force in homœopathy. Soon after his appearance in London he succeeded Dr. Shuldham in the editor's chair of the *Homœopathic World*, which he relinquished exactly sixteen years ago (it was in May, 1885), under the stress of his increasing practice. In those sixteen years he has done an amount of curative work such as few have ever accomplished in a lifetime. It was only by strict adherence to a well thought-out system that he was able to get through the mass of work which his success brought to his consulting-rooms. Burnett believed in the possibility of *cure*, and he made his patients believe in it also. But one thing he demanded of his patients, and that was—time in which to cure them. A master of his art, he knew the conditions essential to success, and

refused to give himself any trouble about a case unless those conditions were loyally conceded by the patient. No man ever pandered to patients less than Burnett, and no man ever won the confidence of patients more completely. He leaves a rich heritage in the gratitude of thousands, very many of whom had been condemned to death, or to a chronic invalidism worse than death, by academic medicine before they came under the influence of his art.

"Unlike many practitioners who, with a great popular reputation, leave nothing but the memory of their reputation behind them, Burnett has left a permanent and vital record of his work in the numerous books that have issued from his pen. It was a saying of his —'If you want to keep a bit of practice to yourself, publish it.' His meaning, apparently, was, that to advance something original and out of the beaten track arouses opposition in the ordinary professional mind, and leaves the originator a more complete monopoly of the method than if he had

endeavoured to make a secret of it. There was much truth in this paradox, though, like most paradoxes, it did not contain all the truth. But certain it is, Burnett's writings have not produced anything like the effect their intrinsic value warrants; though they *will have their due effect some day.* Burnett was a little ahead of his generation, that is all: he has left his record, and it is alive with a life which will grow as the years go by. If he had left nothing behind him besides his description of the power and place of the nosode of tubercular consumption,[1] named by him *Bacillinum*, he would have left an imperishable claim to the gratitude of posterity; but he has left much more, and he has left it in a *germinal state*, so that others, if they will take the trouble, may apply the knowledge in an infinity of analogous ways.

"Burnett's knowledge was the very opposite of that which he so aptly and forcibly defined in his reply to the young allopathic doctor to whom his *Fifty Reasons for being a*

[1] *The Cure of Consumption by its own Virus.*

Homœopath were addressed: 'My dear fellow,' said Burnett over the dinner-table at which they met, to the young man whose insolent academicism had provoked the sleeping lion, 'your mind is as full of scholastic conceit as an egg is full of meat, and you are therefore a doomed man, so far as scientific medicine is concerned; your cup of knowledge is full, but full of knowledge of the wrong sort; your knowledge is like those Neapolitan walnuts there, which have been dried in a kiln, and thereby rendered sterile; plant them and they will not germinate, and it is just thus with your scholastic learnings: all you know was first dried in the kiln of the schools, and has been rendered sterile—incapable of germinating. Kiln-dried walnuts have a certain value as food, but they are *dead;* your knowledge has a certain value as mental food for other students if you like to turn teacher, but it is scholastically dried up and sterilised. You have no living faith in living physic—so far as the really direct healing of the sick is con-

cerned all your medicine is *dead*, as dead as a door nail.' Burnett perceived, as few men do, the value and the limitations of academic knowledge, and the freshness of his own writings is largely due to this clear perception.

"The first recollection the present writer has of Burnett was as a big, dark-eyed, dark-haired man reading a paper at a meeting of the Homœopathic Society of Liverpool some time in 1876. The subject dealt with in the paper was the action of *Oxalic acid* on the base of the left lung. Burnett's exact anatomical knowledge was here as often of supreme service to his therapeutics. His observation was taken to heart by one, at least, of his audience, and later on bore fruit in this one's own practice. From that day onward every work of Burnett's has been eagerly read by him and turned to practical account.

"Burnett's freedom from academic trammels led him to original work in two opposite directions. He developed the homœopathy

of specificity of seat—the correspondence between certain drugs and certain organs—the organopathy of Paracelsus and Rademacher. This he regarded as the first grade of homœopathy, and in this he used chiefly crude preparations. On the other hand, he made free use of high attenuations and nosodes. His little work on *Natrum muriaticum* (common salt) in the higher attenuations has led many to perceive the power which attenuation may develop. His own personal proclivity was for the lower attenuations and mother tinctures; but he never allowed his personal prejudices to blind him to facts which told against them. His use of the nosodes from the standpoint of *diathetic homœopathicity*, in addition to their use on their finer indications, is little less than a new revelation in the homœopathic art. Those who have mastered the principle of Burnett's use of *Bacillinum*, disclosed in his *Cure of Consumption*, will have no difficulty in adapting it to the use of all the nosodes.

"Now that the master is no longer with

us to cultivate the rich therapeutic fields which his genius has opened up, it behoves us who remain to see that the most is made of the legacy bequeathed to us. The future of homœopathy will be influenced for all time by the work of him whose personal absence we now deplore ; but the work has in it living germs which can never die.

"Dear old friend and predecessor! We can find no more fitting words to inscribe on your tomb than the title of the work you wrote in the Master's praise—ECCE MEDICUS!"

The next passage is an extract from an obituary notice by Dr. Frank Kraft, editor of the *American Homœopathist.* It appeared in the number of that journal dated July 15, 1901 :—

"Dr. Burnett was truly a remarkable man. He had about him that magnetism, that witchery, that individuality which held his auditor from the first moment. Those who

have read his little books must have noted the spirit of whole-heartedness and sincerity, the wish to help every one else, that pervades the printed page. And that was Burnett, all over, in actual life. He was not an old man, reckoned in years of living, nor even in learning—as learning is estimated by many people. The enormous range of his knowledge, his skill, and his reputation did not bear down upon his visitor. All these were extraneous and never obtruded. He was simply a grand man, a lover of his kind, a faithful physician, the impersonation of kindness and sweetness, devoted to the work in which he was enlisted. He was more nearly an American than most men we have met on that side of the water, and there are several others in and about London. He was approachable. He was generous. He was whole-souled. He was genuinely helpful. His grasp of hand left a feeling of heartiness and goodwill. Those in sorrow and affliction found in him ever and always a friend, a patient listener, and an efficient helper. He

was an indefatigable workman, and an honest one. He was successful, not only as the madding world views success—financially—but as and for himself and his labours. He was logical and broad in his conclusions. His homœopathy came to him upon conviction, as it did to others of the giants of a generation or two ago, who had entered upon its investigation with purposed scoffing and deriding, but had stayed to praise. His was a firm belief in *similia*. He had elaborated, additionally, the Rademacher organopathy, carrying it to a high degree of success."

The *Monthly Homœopathic Review* of May 1, 1901, thus wrote of Dr. Burnett :—

"His personality and character were very uncommon, and we had almost said unique. He was a remarkably strong character of a rugged massive type, straightforward and direct to a degree. He could stand no half measures, and spoke freely what he felt, not caring what others thought of what he said,

so long as he was sure he was right. His massive head and keen powerful expression of face fully bore out his mental and moral character. He had an immense power with his patients, a magnetic personality which impressed all who consulted him, and gave them the utmost confidence in him. He had not only this gift of inspiring confidence, but also of eliciting real attachment and admiration, the most valuable gift that a physician could possess. He was pre-eminently a strong man in the highest sense of the term, and what brought out his full power and strength was his enthusiastic devotion to his profession, and especially to homœopathy. This was, we might say, the life of his life, and any one could see, his patients especially, how staunch was his belief in homœopathy, and in its wonderful curative powers."

PART II.—CRITICAL

PREFATORY NOTE

In the foregoing portion of this volume, whilst many references have been made to Dr. Burnett's writings and methods of practice, I have thought it desirable to enter more into detail in describing these. By doing so, I think this work will be rendered no less interesting to the lay reader, and will at the same time give the medical reader a more practical insight into the lines of curative work by which Dr. Burnett accomplished so much.

J. H. C.

CHAPTER I

DR. BURNETT'S METHODS OF WORK

DR. BURNETT once told the writer that when he took over the Chester practice his predecessor said to him, "It is of no use your giving these people *Aconite*, *Bryonia*, *Belladonna*, *Arsenicum*, and the rest of the old stagers, because they have had them all; you will have to strike out a line of your own." As may be supposed, Dr. Burnett was quite equal to the occasion. It is possible to practice homœopathy on many different lines, and it is necessary to be able to do this when circumstances demand. Because one remedy will not go on doing the same thing for a patient indefinitely, after a time the power of

reaction to that remedy is exhausted and another must be sought.

With this friendly warning before him, Dr. Burnett did not mince matters. In his big, wholesale way he drew into his service the treasures exploited by Paracelsus, by Rademacher, and by Schüssler. All of these he rightly considered as within the field of homœopathic action, and the work he has done with them constitutes a grand endowment for practical homœopathy.

In an article published in the *Calcutta Journal of Medicine* in May, 1901, the editor, the venerable Dr. Mahendra L'al Sircar, reviewed the second American edition of Dr. Burnett's *Curability of Tumours by Medicines*, and the review gives such an excellent estimate of the author's work that some parts of it may well find a place in this chapter. Dr. Sircar says :—

"A true follower of Hahnemann, Dr. Burnett was a physician *par excellence*. He kept before his eye the Master's definition—

'the physician's high and *only* mission is to restore the sick to health, to *cure* as it is termed.' He was possessed with the thorough conviction that *all* diseases are amenable to cure, if properly treated and in stages not too far advanced, and that even in the latter case they may be arrested in their progress and brought down to a lower level. 'Physicians must be firm,' says he, 'and not allow themselves to be sneered or jeered away from their duty, but always *try to cure everything*; I do not mean pretend, but *try*.' Under this conviction he pursued his calling, and boldly, vigorously, and successfully attacked diseases which it was the monopoly of the surgeon to deal with by the knife. Cataract, fistula, tumours, which, according to old-school practitioners, were not curable by medicines, and which, in their eyes, it would be charlatanry and even heresy to treat otherwise than by the knife, and which members of the new school would but timidly undertake to palliate, Dr. Burnett would not hesitate to treat with the hope of a cure, and the

hope was often realised. 'Many a clinical battle,' says he with just pride, 'I have fought *and won*, although the winning had been previously proved to be impossible.'

"It is a fact that, since the dawn of homœopathy, these and other incurable diseases were cured by homœopathic medicines long before Dr. Burnett came into the field. We have ourselves, even in the early days of our conversion, effected several cures of the above-mentioned diseases and succeeded in inspiring confidence in the system in the minds of many intelligent, dispassionate, and impartial laymen, and have thus been an humble instrument in the spread of its cause in our country. But it must be acknowledged that such homœopathic cures of incurables throughout the world were solitary, scattered cases, not because homœopathy was altogether unequal to the task, but chiefly because its practitioners did not seem to have been actuated by the necessary earnestness and zeal to command and secure the patience of patients. It has been Dr. Burnett's merit to

have had in a pre-eminent degree this earnestness and zeal. He would not give up incurable cases, but he would not undertake their treatment unless the patients submitted to undergo a *prolonged* treatment.

"In the case of one of the so-called incurable diseases—the tumours—Dr. Burnett asks, 'Why is it that odd cases of tumour have been cured by remedies here and there for many years, notably by homœopathic practitioners, and yet the *systematic medication* for tumours is non-existent?' And he answers, 'I take it that the difficulties of the task, the complexities of the clinical problems to be solved, the incapacity of mankind to value and understand the work done, all tend to prevent it. And even still more, the venomous hatred of those who can *not*.' It is the third reason here assigned, the incapacity to appreciate the work that has to be done, which makes patients and their friends impatient of the length of time required to effect a cure, and urges them to rush headlong to certain death, as will be seen from the

following narrative by the author: 'I had cured a lady of a tiny tumour in her nose; she was pleased and grateful, and subsequently brought to me her niece, on whom the doctors were about to operate for a small ovarian tumour; I cured this tumour also, but it occupied two years or thereabouts, and then aunt and niece both persuaded a friend to come to me. How long did I think it would take to cure her ovarian tumour? At least two years. I prefer the operation, said she; that will only take six weeks. But it took less. She died under or shortly after the operation. . . . The same aunt and niece persuaded a lady from Chatham to come to me for a tumour of the breast; the lady's husband declined, as I thought it would take two years at the very least. She was successfully operated on, and thoroughly cured thereby of her mammary tumour; nine months later she was again thoroughly cured of another tumour, by a perfectly successful operation; a few months thereafter she was again successfully operated on for another

tumour, and just as she was getting well—she died.'

"These and other similar cases justify the author in declaring 'that a tumour is the product of the organism, and to be really cured the power to produce the same must be eliminated, got rid of; cutting it off merely rids the organism of the product, leaving the producing power where it was before, often the operative interference acting like pruning a vine; *i.e.*, the tumour-producing power is increased, and the fatal issue is brought nearer.' To express the same thing in other words, we should say that the tumour resides in the whole organism, and not merely in the locality where it has become visible and tangible. Hence to really cure the patient we must remove it from the organism, that is, we must correct and remove the morbid tendency to it, which can be done, if at all, by medicines alone. 'Cutting off an apple,' as the author has significantly said, 'does not cure an apple-tree of growing apples.' The most sensible members of the

old school are fully cognisant of this, but lacking drugs to effect the desired object, and lacking a guide to find out suitable drugs, they are obliged to have recourse to extirpation of the visible and tangible disease. With reference to cancers, John Hunter, whom the author has quoted, wisely said, 'No cure has yet been found, for what I call a cure is an alteration of the disposition and the effect of that disposition, and *not* the destruction of the cancerous parts.' The same view has been expressed by others in different words. Thus Dr. Creighton's theory of cancer is that it is an acquired habit of the tissues, 'a habit that might be broken if we only knew.' Virchow believes in the possibility of a process of *involution* in tumours tending to their disappearance, and hence he deprecates too great scepticism as regards their drug-therapeutics.

"Is homœopathy any good in tumour curing? 'Where are the healthy people to be had, who will eat drugs long enough to grow tumours in their bodily parts?' asks

Dr. Burnett, and answers, 'Clearly they are not forthcoming.' He admits, 'This has rendered homœopathy almost helpless in medicinal tumour-curing, but all the same,' says he, 'the chapter of accidents proves theoretically its absolute soundness, as does also pure symptomatic treatment without any regard to morbid anatomy at all. It has been proved that the homœopathic treatment of symptoms does sometimes result in the cure of the tumour causing such symptoms; thus *Colocynth* given for its pains has several times cured, not only such pains, but also the entire state, tumour and all. But here the difficulty of finding a remedy which shall be homœopathic not to the symptoms due to the presence of the tumours, but to their causation—that is to say, to those symptoms which constitute the disease-picture, and which lead up to, and end in the formation of tumours—this difficulty is, in the present state of our knowledge, well-nigh insurmountable; hence I have learnt to hang my hat on any peg I could find."

"Ought we to blame Dr. Burnett," continues Dr. Sircar, "for not sticking to the letter of Homœopathy when the Materia Medica Pura is yet so incomplete, and when he could show such brilliant cures as are recorded in this book brought about by remedies which had never been properly or at all proved? For those of our readers to whom the book is new, we give the following extracts from the first edition (1893) to show what the author's views on homœopathy were, which rightly understood would be found not to be in disagreement with those of Hahnemann himself, who did not hesitate to recommend massive doses of *Camphor* in the first stage of cholera, and mesmerism in other diseases. Says Dr. Burnett :—

"'The practical question with me is this: Is it not time to *widen* our definition of homœopathy in regard to the choice of the remedy, and, while leaving the choice of the remedy according to the totality of the symptoms in full force and dignity, draw into it *all* the aids that may lead to the right choice of the remedies;

more particularly the natural history of the morbid processes themselves?

"'In other words, I maintain that choosing the remedies according to the totality of the symptoms is only *one way of finding the right remedy;* and, moreover, sometimes totally inadequate.

"'You may *find* the right remedy once in a way according to the old doctrine of signatures; and even though so found, it *acts homœopathically;* the way of choosing is poor and crude, but it *is a way.*

"'You may find the right remedy by organ-testing after the manner of Paracelsus, and the *remedy acts homœopathically* although *found* that way.

"'You may *find* the right remedy purely hypothetically, after the manner of Von Grauvogl and Schüssler, the mode of action remains the same, *i.e.*, homœopathic.

"'You may use dynamized salt—*Natrum muriaticum*—to cure marine cachexia, sea-side neuralgia, sea-side headache, and the like, and still the action of the remedy is homœopathic. You prove, or assume as pure theory, the double and opposite actions of large and small doses of the same remedy, and treat chronic arsenicism with *Arsenicum*, and it is still homœopathy. You may theorise clinically as I do in *New Cure of Consumption*, and reach no mean degree of success—further than ever before reached—and I maintain it is homœopathy all the time.

"'The fact is we need any and every way of finding the right remedy; the simple simile, the simple symptomatic simillimum; and the *farthest reach of all—the pathologic simillimum;* and I maintain that we are still

well within the lines of *the homœopathy that is expansive, progressive, science-fostered, science-fostering, and world-conquering.*'"

Thus far Dr. Sircar's article. A favourite quotation of Dr. Burnett's, and one which he put on the title-page of his *Curability of Tumours*, was John Hunter's definition of a cure: "What I call a cure," wrote Hunter, "is an alteration of the disposition and the effect of that disposition, and not the destruction of the cancerous parts." Hahnemann was the first to discover a scientific method of meeting the perfectly sound requirement of John Hunter's definition. Hahnemann's followers have always in some degree carried out his methods in dealing with constitutional states. But it must be confessed that his immediate disciples were more enthusiastic and more successful in this branch of work than the present generation.

Modern homœopaths have grown so "liberal-minded," and so "scientific," that they have hardly any time left in which

to be homœopathic. The consequence is that they are apt to fly to surgery and other adjuvants instead of attempting the more difficult, more artistic, and less specious work of the homœopathic cure. "But," it is sometimes urged, "patients are too *im*patient; and if *we* don't operate, they will promptly go off to somebody else." Dr. Burnett's work supplies the answer to this plea. Dr. Burnett kept his patients as long as was necessary to "alter their disposition and the effect of that disposition." The reason why Burnett was able to do this was that he *knew the power of homœopathy.* Homœopathy is not a "faith," it is a *science—a knowledge.* Those who know little of it can do little with it, and are not likely to commend it much to their environment. And no amount of "faith" in homœopathy will make up for the lack of knowledge.

According to Hahnemann, two years was sufficiently short a time in which to work a radical constitutional change. Burnett, more than any one else, has realised and demon-

strated the power of homœopathy, persistently followed out, to change constitutions ; and it was his success in this which enabled him to keep his patients faithful to him long enough for them to be cured.

With ordinary homœopathy the cure of a tumour by medicines is an interesting medical "freak" to be reported in the journals, cackled over a little, and then dropped. With Dr. Burnett the cure of tumours and the cure of dyscrasias likely to ultimate in tumours or other undesirable manifestations was the business of his life. And he tackled it in the same way as a man of business tackles any of *his* problems. He knew the powers at his command, and he estimated the conditions necessary for their due application. These he demanded and rarely failed to obtain.

This is one of the most important lessons which Dr. Burnett has taught his generation—the possibilities of constitutional treatment, and the conditions necessary for its success. The main thing, of course, given the right conditions, is the knowledge of the materia

medica. It is this which gives the practitioner confidence in demanding the conditions, and it this, and nothing less, which can make homœopathy advance.

But the materia medica is powerless unless time is allowed for each remedy indicated to work out its effects, and the work of changing constitutions is essentially a work which demands abundance of time.

In the passage quoted by Dr. Sircar Dr. Burnett says: "The fact is we need any and every way of finding the right remedy; the simple simile, the simple symptomatic simillimum, and, the *farthest reach of all—the pathologic simillimum.*" It was in this direction—in what may be termed "DIATHETIC HOMŒOPATHY"—that perhaps the grandest work of all was achieved by Dr. Burnett.

When Dr. Burnett made the splendid generalisation that the virus of phthisis was available for therapeutic purposes, not only in cases of actual lung affections, but also in conditions arising out of a phthisical ten-

dency—inherited or not—for the cure of "consumptiveness," as he termed it, it was not likely that his genius would let him stop there. Nor did it. Throughout his later works the key to many of his prescriptions will be found in the knowledge of the underlying principle of this diathetic homœopathy.

Once apprehended, the application of the principle is not difficult. Moreover it simplifies the work of prescribing to a most desirable extent. Not that it in any way abrogates the cardinal necessity of finding the exact correspondence; but, by revealing the most vital factor in a case, it will often save the prescriber much time and trouble in hunting up symptoms, by at once indicating a remedy which covers the most important part of the ground.

In order to achieve success in the use of diathetic remedies—which are not necessarily always nosodes—the art of diagnosing diatheses must be cultivated. Carefully taken family histories will be the best guide; but those who keep their eyes open for causes

will often be able, from the symptoms themselves, to spell out the diathesis they arise from.

Hahnemann's three miasms—psora, syphilis, and sycosis—have been clearly depicted by his master hand; but they do not by any means exhaust the subject: they do little more than open it up. The cancerous diathesis is not covered by any one or by all of these: it can be met by its own nosodes. Many have written on the pre-cancerous stage in cancer, and none in a more practical way than Dr. Arthur Clifton, of Northampton. It is not necessary to wait until actual new growths have formed before beginning to treat a person of cancerous antecedents for the purpose of curing his diathesis. Dr. Burnett taught that "consumptiveness" can be cured, and showed how the cure might be accomplished. In his work on Tumours he has shown how cancers and other tumours may be cured; but he did even more important work than this in treating persons of cancerous habit and of other specific disease-tendencies.

CHAPTER II

ILLUSTRATIONS

It will, I think, be useful to let Dr. Burnett speak for himself in illustration of the foregoing chapter. The prefaces to his books are full of illumination, and I will therefore reproduce passages from several of his most important works—to wit, *Diseases of the Spleen*, *Greater Diseases of the Liver*, *The New Cure of Consumption*, and *On Gout and its Cure*.

I.—From the Preface to "Diseases of the Spleen."

Dr. Burnett's work on the spleen is one of extreme importance to the student of his methods, and of a certain grade of homœo-

pathic practice. It may almost be said that among moderns Burnett was alone in appreciating the significance of the spleen in its relation to various maladies not usually considered to be associated with it. Among these gout may be mentioned. Burnett was a great observer of what he termed "Synalgias," that is, pains associated with derangement of certain organs, but appearing in parts distant from them. Examples of these are to be found in the shoulder pains of liver disorders. His knowledge of anatomy has often enabled him to track symptoms to their source and thereby to cure his case. It is quite possible for a medical man to announce with much assurance (and with little reason) that such and such an organ is at fault, when there is no one and nothing to prove that he is wrong. But it is quite another thing to prove one's diagnosis correct by treating it on the hypothesis and curing the case. And this is just what Burnett constantly did. With this by way of preface I will go on to the quotation :—

"The strength of a chain is equal to that of its *weakest* link, and similarly the value of a person's life may be equal to that of his *weakest* vital organ : here the particular organ is equal in importance to that of the entire organism.

"Even where the tissue state of the entire organism is everywhere equally bad, it may be a life-saving act to relieve the particular organ that *first* gives way, so that time may be gained to alter the entire crasis or the quality of the stroma.

"Death itself is often at the start in a particular organ, *i.e.*, *local*, and if the part be saved in time life may be preserved. In the acute processes the value of a particular organ strikes one often very forcibly, there may be no need of any constitutional treatment; the one suffering part may be the whole case. And in many chronic cases certain organs claim, and must have, special attention. This is my standpoint in the following pages on *Diseases of the Spleën.* As Forget says, '*Entre la nature médicatrice et la*

nature homicide, il n'y a souvent que l'epaisseuer d'une aponévrose.'

"I deem it necessary to guard myself against misapprehension in one or two particulars. In the first place, I understand by organ-remedy *not* a drug, that is topically applied to a suffering organ for its physical or chemical effects, but a remedy that has an elective affinity for such organ, by reason of which it will find the organ itself through the blood. For instance, an astringent applied to a mucous surface to get rid of a catarrh is no organ-remedy in my meaning, it is no example of Rademacher's organopathy.

"Then I do not put forward organopathy as an idea of my own, or as something new, but as that of Hohenheim, and of his co-doctrinaires, as resuscitated, extended, elaborated, and systematised by Rademacher, in the early part of this century. Hohenheim has been maliciously befouled and meanly robbed long enough, and it is high time he should have the credit of his own genius, as well as of his own folly.

"The modern father of organopathy is Johann Gottfried Rademacher, who was born on August 4, 1772, and died on the 9th of February, 1850. His great lifework bears this title: 'RECHTFERTIGUNG der von den Gelehrten misskannten verstandesrichten ERFAHRUNGSHEILLEHERE der ALTEN SCHEIDEKÜNSTIGEN GEHEIMAERZTE und treue Mittheilung des Ergebnisses einer 25-jährigen Erprobung dieser Lehre am Krankenbette, von Johann Gottfried Rademacher.' The preface to the first edition is dated April 1, 1841.

"This is the work I so often refer to herein, and from which I translate the part on diseases of the spleen, though slightly condensed.

"Further, I do not regard organopathy as something outside homœopathy, but as being embraced by and included in it, though not identical or co-extensive with it. I would say —*Organopathy is homœopathy in the first degree.* And, finally, I would emphasise the fact, that where the homœopathic simillimal agent

covering the totality of the symptoms, *and also the underlying pathologic process causing such symptoms*, can be found, there organopathy either has no *raison d'être* at all, or it is only of temporary service to ease an organ in distress."

II.—From "Greater Diseases of the Liver."

The passage I will now quote has an interest over and above its scientific importance. "Studiosus" is none other than Dr. Burnett himself, and the experiences here recorded had no small share in opening his mind to the defects of allopathy, and the need of something more rational and less short-sighted in therapeutics than the doctrines of orthodoxy :—

JAUNDICE.

"If anyone shall maintain that jaundice is not a *greater* disease of the liver, but a minor one, I shall reply, 'Then such a one has never had the curious complaint.' Jaundice was the indirect cause of some of my earliest

efforts at independent thought in medicine; it was in this wise: A student was working with Professor H—— with the microscope while he had a bad cold in his head—in the hot, tickling, dewdrop stage—and finding that microscopising under the circumstances was not an easy matter he said to his professorial friend, 'What's good for a cold in the head?'

"'Oh,' said he, "sniff up cold water into your nostrils—that'll cure it quickly.'

"Studiosus set his microscope aside, went home. Once there, forthwith sniffed cold water most diligently into his nostrils, and *cured* the said coryza there and then. A sweet cure! as the sequel showed.

"The next day he had the beginning of catarrhal jaundice, and in two days the affection was well established.

"Professor H. was again consulted, and said he must give up hospital work at once, and take a holiday in the hills.

"Being conversant with all the facts of the case, it occurred to me that as catarrhal

jaundice was due to a catarrh of the gall-ducts, just as the coryza was a catarrh of the nose, so if we could only get at the gall-ducts as readily as at the nostrils, we might wash them out also, and thus *cure* the jaundice, as the coryza had been cured.

"I have had a certain number of colds in the head to treat during the years that have since elapsed, but I have never recommended Professor H.'s plan of sniffing cold water into the nostrils, believing a catarrh of the nose to be less bad than a corresponding state of the gall-ducts. This simple narration really touches at the very foundations of *all* curing. The young man was not well; Nature sought to rid his organism of something harmful to his organismic self; she sets up a watery discharge from a small portion of the mucous lining of the body, near the surface and not otherwise too much functionally occupied. This hot running from the nose was really a curative expression of the organism. (The young man had been long living and working in the most foul

atmosphere of dissecting-rooms and hospital wards). The cold water *stopped* it (the flux, not the disease), and then Nature fell back upon the liver, as she so often does.

"*Centrifugal fluxes and discharges should not be lightly stopped.*

"*Why* the flux? *Whence* the discharge? Let the questions of the why? and whence? be answered as we go along. Here I merely insist upon the elementary truth that a morbic process having a, perhaps, time-honoured name, may be nevertheless no disease at all, but merely a means of cure set up by Nature herself, and that there are diseases which it is disadvantageous or dangerous to cure, that is to cure in the sense in which the verb to cure is commonly used in English by the thoughtless. Of course to effect a *really* radical cure of any *primary* disease can never be other than a gain to the individual."

III.—The Cure of Consumption by its own Virus.

There is no doubt in my mind that *The Cure of Cousumption* is the greatest of all Dr. Burnett's works, and the one which establishes beyond all question his claim to immortality and the eternal homage of his kind.

Here is the Preface to the First Edition :—

"For a number of years, notably during the past decade, the medical branch of the scientific world have been intently occupied and hard at work with the minute living causes of infectious and other diseases, and secondarily with the poisons or viruses of the disease processes as a cure or prophylactic of the self-same diseases; more particularly is M. Pasteur best known to the world at large in this connection.

"But wherever the cure of disease is concerned, the practitioners of scientific homœopathy have ever been in the van, and it is therefore not surprising that they should have been

before all others in using the virus of consumption wherewith to cure consumption itself. But a number of years ago the leaders of the dominant sect of the medical profession raised a hue and cry against those of the homœopaths who were so unspeakable as to use the virus of consumption against the disease itself; and for fear of an unbearable amount of opposition and ignorant prejudice, the practice was discountenanced and almost discontinued—a few only publishing here and there a striking case of the cure of consumption by the virus of the process itself.

"I am one of those on whom the opposition and ridicule have acted as an incentive to further observation and research, and for the past five years have regularly used the bacillic virus as a part of my daily practice, and that in the aggregate with great satisfaction. Thus it is that the material that makes up this small treatise has been slowly accumulating, and was intended to form part of a greater work

on the general subject of the cure of grave forms of disease by the viruses of the disease processes themselves; but here Dr. Koch breaks in with his great epoch-making discovery of a new cure for consumption, and which turns out to be none other than our old homœopathically administered virus, against which the hue and cry was long ago raised by the very men who now lie prone at Dr. Koch's feet in abject adoration. The differences between our old friend Tuberculinum (which I have ventured to call Bacillinum, as the bacilli were proved to be in my preparation by an expert in practical bacteriology)—I say the difference between our old friend Tuberculinum or Bacillinum and that of Koch lies in the way it is obtained; ours is the virus of the natural disease itself, while Koch's is the same virus artificially obtained in an incubator from colonies of bacilli thriving in beef jelly; ours is the chick hatched under the hen, Koch's is the chick hatched in an incubator. The artificial hatching is Koch's discovery,

not the remedy itself or its use as a cure for consumption.

"I think very highly of Koch's remedy, as the world will no doubt call it, and I know that he is on the right track. I am more sure than Koch can be himself, because I used it five years before he knew it, and he has yet to prove that his results are satisfactory. There is one other difference, *i.e.*, the mode of administering it to the patient; I use the remedy in high potency, which is not fraught with the palpable dangers of Koch's method of injecting material quantities under the skin, or in other words, straight into the blood. Of course, if Dr. Koch's dosage and mode of administration should give better results than we have obtained, then Koch's method will have to be adopted. But my present opinion tends to the opposite conclusion. Still we will leave that till Koch's method has been properly tried. Meanwhile here is my own

"FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

"Although I maintain that Dr. Koch's remedy has been very well known for a long time, whereof our vast, but unfortunately almost unknown, literature bears ample testimony, still his labours and their results are all his own, and we shall all of us honour the honest worker and distinguished *savant*, while at the same time we claim simply for ourselves what is rightly ours. True, we work in the obscurity of schism, but we work nevertheless; and although to him all the honour, and to us ridicule, misrepresentation and hateful slander, still we pray that we may never be weary in well-doing.

"November 21, 1890."

IV.—"CONSUMPTIVENESS."

Thus far the Preface.

But of even more importance than the treating of an actual disease by its own virus is the discovery that the virus is available for the cure of *disease tendencies*, or for the cure of

conditions which are a remote outcrop of the tendencies, and are devoid of any *primâ facie* semblance to the original disease. "I let my imagination play about a case," said Dr. Burnett, and no one knew better than he of how great value the scientific use of the imagination may sometimes be. The following quotation must be my illustration of the concluding remarks of the foregoing chapter, those, namely, on *Diathetic Homœopathy* (pp. 89–91):—

"HÆMORRHOIDS IN THE PHTHISICALLY DISPOSED.

"By phthisically disposed I mean those whom the experienced eye easily diagnoses as prone to consumption, though, as a matter of fact, they cannot be said to have consumption at all, and, very possibly, they may never get it. They ail in various ways; some of them have hay fever, and some piles. The phthisical and the phthisically-disposed are very prone to piles, notably those who are dark and dusky; and, indeed, I have often found the

piles in such more troublesome and painful than the phthisis proper.

"Simple, uncomplicated cases exemplify best; thus:—

"In the month of June, 1891, a married man of about 30 years of age, known to me from his boyhood almost, came to me for chronic piles of a most distressing nature that were making him almost an invalid. He had attacks of pain *about an hour after stool;* he was also a chronic sufferer from hay fever, and his teeth were tubercular (indented in [generally black] dots), and the pains were greatly aggravated by coughing and sneezing, both of which he indulged in very freely.

"*Bacillinum* 1000 cured him right off in a fortnight, both of the piles and of the just-described pains after stool, and to-day, December 7, 1891, he continues quite well, and has had no relapse. His hay fever was also seemingly cured in the same rapid way, but hay fever has an ugly knack of returning again and again after you have cured it! Two or three successive summers must pass

before we can rely upon a cured case of hay fever being really cured to return no more. From the remedies I have found useful, and also useless, in the therapeutics of hay fever, I have come to the conclusion clinically that what nosologists and clinicians call hay fever includes several ætiologically and pathologically totally different ailments or diseases. In some, I think hay fever very distinctly a manifestation of a phthisical taint—about the others I have not yet made up my mind. The problem of grasses has the same relationship to hay fever as the north wind has to a phthisical cough—the cough is hardly a north-wind cough in a pathological sense."

PRE-PHTHISICAL DYSPEPSIA.

"A married gentleman, 24 years of age, came under my care on the 2nd of March, 1891, to be treated for most distressing and inveterate dyspepsia of three years' standing. He had the characteristic symptom 'as if a tight rope were bound round his stomach.' Debility, paleness, acidity; nervous, a kind

of dead-all-over feeling. He had from me at first *Argentum nitricum* 3x with a certain amount of benefit, but he was not cured by any means, and complained very bitterly. Dyspeptics generally know well how to grumble, and their descriptive talents are by no means inconsiderable. But after I had had him a few weeks under *Bacillinum* C.C. he turned all his talents at graphic grumbling into persuasive recommendations to his sick friends to journey forthwith to see the writer.

"One of his friends came a long distance —some 200 miles—to see me, and burst forth: 'You have made a great cure of Mr. ——' &c.

"I was ultimately led to give *Bacillinum* C.C. in this case because of the numerous peripheral glands that were visibly and feelably enlarged and indurated; by the fact that he had had blood-spitting, and because his mother had died of phthisis at 49, and one of his sisters had also died of phthisis.

"He considers himself quite well these

three months; I put it in this way as I have not *seen* him, he living so far away."

COUGH WITH CHRONIC PULMONARY CATARRH.

"A London gentleman, just turned 50 years of age, came under my professional care in the first days of January, 1891. He was subject to a chronic cough, with much catarrh of both the lungs; his cough was very distressing indeed, and no wonder, considering the awful fog then on. But, though the cough was much aggravated by the fog, it was by no means due to it. There was some wheezing all over the chest, much worse of the left side, and patient gets feverish attacks which he terms his 'heats and sweats.' Cough worse at night, wakened by it. Said he: 'I was always a coughing man; my father died at my present age of consumption, and I have lost a brother and also a sister from consumption.'"

"Two months of the *Bacillinum* C. quite cured him, and he was really a different man,

and his friends hardly knew him without his cough, so frequently had it been to the fore."

INCIPIENT GENERAL ATROPHY.

"A boy of ten years of age was brought to me by his mother at the beginning of the year 1891 for wasting weakness. Rather tall for his age, he presented the following picture: a glum, ancient face; thin, almost cheekless, hollow eyes; neck long, thin, studded with 'waxen kernels,' *i.e.*, peripheral hypertrophic glands, thorax almost like a skeleton, and its cutaneous covering very full of wee veins; abdomen thin and yet pot-like, the so-called drum-belly; extremities long and thin; groins full of feelably indurated very-small glands. He is mum always, gives no replies to my inquiries, and his mother tells me he will hardly ever talk; he takes no interest in strangers or in general surroundings, and seemingly has no very special desire for anything or anybody, and hardly ever wants either to eat or drink. 'And yet,' exclaimed his mother, 'he is not ill!'

"Five months under our *Bacillinum* C. and C.C. (in *in*frequent dose I will again reiterate) with an inter-current month under *Thuja* 30 and followed by another month under *Calc. Phos.* 3x, and now he is bright, chatty, nearly a stone heavier, enjoys his food, and is full of interest for his surroundings; the old shrivelled-up joylessness has gone and given place to cheerful thrivingness. I ordered no alteration either in diet or place of abode. The boy lived before the treatment, and during the treatment, and now after the cure, in the same house in a London suburb."

"CEPHALIC SUFFERINGS IN LATER LIFE PRIMARILY DUE TO OUTGROWN HYDROCEPHALUS.

"This part of my subject may be considered *as new*, and deserves more than a passing consideration. In the first edition of this work, I narrated a case in point (Case xxiii). Let us enter upon the subject somewhat.

"We have all met with cases of oddly-shaped more or less piled-up or bulging-out heads, and these people really bear about with them a cephalic misshapenness (perhaps, very trifling, but still peculiar) as the permanent expression of the hydrocephalic states of their early lives. Such people are frequently gifted; their children are very delicate and apt to die of consumption; and although they have grown out of their hydrocephalus, and may be gifted and distinguished members of society, they generally suffer more or less in various ways; they are apt to be a bit peculiar in their sexual spheres and their ways—glum sort of folks, by no means excelling in amiability. I know one gentleman whose skull is drawn up somewhat sugar-loaf fashion, or, rather, as if the skull had developed while it was hung up by its top; his periodical hæmorrhoidal bleedings indicate, I think, a tubercular taint."

I need not quote further to show the line

of Dr. Burnett's thoughts and observations. Those who wish more detail will be able to find it in the book from which I have made the quotation. At the time of his lamented death Dr. Burnett had in contemplation a work dealing with other disease-tendencies in the way in which he described "consumptiveness," and how to remedy it. It is the world's loss that this was never carried out: but in his work on *Consumption* he has supplied the key by which others may solve for themselves the problem he had solved for himself.

V.—Gout.

No less original than practical was Dr. Burnett's reading of the protean malady known to the world as gout. I will conclude this chapter of illustrations with quotations from the work on *Gout and its Cure*:—

"For the successful treatment of Gout it is necessary to have a clear idea of what

constitutes its various parts; notably must we differentiate between its pre-deposit symptoms and its post-deposit symptoms, for much of the want of success in its cure is due to a mixing-up of the two sets of symptoms. The symptoms that precede and lead up to the uric acid retentions in the blood are a series by themselves; those due to the uric acid in the blood, and which lead up to the gouty deposit as an attack, or as chronic deposits, are a second series. The former really spell arthritic cacopepsia, while the latter are synonymous with uric acid poisoning; in the one we deal with the producing power, in the other with the product.

"This differentiation being made, we proceed on two lines with the treatment—the one to get rid of the gouty attack and the deposits, and the other, the more important, to deal with that which leads to the production of the uric material.

"The following pages are intended to set forth the writer's method of procedure."

In his own masterly fashion Dr. Burnett analyses the various problems presented by gout in its acute and constitutional forms; and he tells how he came to discover in *Urtica urens* a potent remedy for the acute attack. Incidentally he tells of other uses of the Nettle, and one of these I will quote, because it is no less valuable biographically than it is therapeutically. All unconsciously Dr. Burnett draws a vivid picture of himself in his—

STORY OF THE NETTLE AS A MEDICINE.

"Although nothing to do with my present thesis, except in so far as it gives an account of my first acquaintance with the nettle as a medicine, I am nevertheless constrained to give a history of the nettle as a medicine in gout, ague-cake, and gravel; I mean, of course, my history of the nettle.

"Twenty years ago I was treating a lady for intermittent fever of the mild English type, when one day my patient came tripping somewhat jauntily into my consulting-room

and informed me that she was quite cured of her fever, and wished to consult me in regard to another matter. I at once turned to my notes of her case, and inquired more closely into the matter of the cure, in order to duly credit my prescribed remedy with the cure, and the more so as ague is not always easily disposed of therapeutically. 'Oh,' said the lady, 'I did not take your medicine at all, for when I got home I had such a severe attack of fever that my charwoman begged me to allow her to make me some nettle-tea, as that was a sure cure of fever. I consented, and she at once went into our garden, where there are plenty of nettles growing in a heap of rubbish and brickbats, and got some nettles, of which she made me a tea, and I drank it. It made me very hot. The fever left me, and I have not had it since.'

"Homage to the charwoman of nettle-tea fame! The thing escaped my mind for years, but one day, being in difficulty about a case of ague, I treated it with a tincture of

nettles and cured it straight away, and my next case also, and my next, and almost every case since, and with very nearly uniform success. Some of my cases of ague cured with nettle-tincture were most severe ones, invalided home from India and Burmah. And quite lately a patient living in Siam, to whom I had sent a big bottle of nettle-tincture, wrote me: 'The tincture you sent us has very greatly mitigated the fever we get here. Please order us another bottle.'"

Here we see Dr. Burnett at work. We see the earnest practitioner carefully noting the salient features of his case—the indications for his remedy, the remedy prescribed. We see him eagerly turn to his notes to see what remedy had achieved the result, and to credit a success for future guidance. We see him enjoying to the full the humour of a situation turned against himself—defeated by a charwoman; acknowledging with frankest candour his own discomfiture, and turning his defeat to future triumphs."

A medical student once said to the writer, speaking of one of the professors of his school: "Sir X. Y. is a very liberal-minded man; he says he doesn't care where a remedy comes from; even if he gets it from an old woman he wouldn't object to use it." "No," said I, "I can quite believe that; but would Sir X. Y. be liberal-minded enough to give the old woman the credit of it? I very much doubt it if the 'old woman' happened to be a homœopath." Burnett's liberal-mindedness was of an entirely different order; he was always ready to give credit where credit was due. "Homage to the char-woman!" said he.

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION

WITH these extracts from the work on gout I will conclude this sketch of Dr. Burnett's work and method. It will be seen that I have for the most part let Dr. Burnett describe it for himself; but I think by bringing together extracts in the way I have done, the medical reader will be better able to see the mainspring, as it were, of the methods than it has been possible heretofore. Dr. Burnett claimed for homœopathy unlimited scope of development. His genius led him into fields of great fruitfulness which had never been cultivated before; but as Columbus showed his colleagues how to make an egg stand on end, so Dr. Burnett has shown his colleagues

how to do many things which it had never occurred to them to attempt before his time, and which are not so difficult now he has opened the way.

In this sketch I have endeavoured to demonstrate how Dr. Burnett got at his indications, and how he achieved his results. It is open to any of his colleagues to use the means his genius has put within their reach and improve upon them. For there is no resting-ground in homœopathy—progress is the very breath of its existence. Hence the necessity for each generation to stand, as it were, on the shoulders of the generation preceding. The fault of old-school therapeutics is that it is trammelled by authority. Hahnemann delivered the profession from the necessity of being trammelled by authority; but the profession—homœopathic as well as allopathic—has a sneaking love for the slave-driving Authority all the same. Dr. Burnett was one of those who successfully freed himself from the trammels. The consequence was that his patients recognised in him one

who *knew*. A patient of his who had been the weary round of all the consultants of the old school before he came to Dr. Burnett said of him: "He was the only doctor I ever consulted who really seemed to *know* what he was talking about." The reason of this was that Dr. Burnett had accepted the liberty Hahnemann offered him; he recognised that his task was to deal with actual states, and not merely on the names of states and the names of medicinal actions.

PART III.—THE BURNETT MEMORIAL

CHAPTER I

HISTORICAL

It was not to be expected that a personality of the calibre of Dr. Burnett should pass away without evoking a desire to establish some enduring memorial in his honour. Nor was this the case. A number of proposals were made, and among them was a suggestion from an old patient of Dr. Burnett's, the Rev. W. Stewart Walford, of Ipswich, who wrote to the editor of the *Homœopathic World* (June, 1901), as follows: "I thank you for what you have written about my old friend Burnett, which is every word true. He was a man greatly valued, and I may say beloved, by his patients. I hope something will be done to perpetuate his memory." Mr. Walford made the suggestion that it would be a fitting thing to establish in his

memory "a Homœopathic School of Medicine, so that the future students of medicine might have the same advantages they have in America of qualifying as homœopathic doctors, instead of having to go through the cruder teaching of the old system." This proposal met with a good deal of favour, but the practical difficulties were at the time insurmountable, and the proposal remained in abeyance. Since, then, however, events of great importance have happened in the affairs of British Homœopathy, and the proposal to found a school in Dr. Burnett's memory has crystallised into the founding of a homœopathic professorship in a College of Homœopathy which is to exist in the near future. The chief event to which allusion was made just now, is the founding of the BRITISH HOMŒOPATHIC ASSOCIATION as the outcome of Dr. Burford's proposal, from the presidential chair of the British Homœopathic Society, to raise a "Twentieth Century Fund of not less than £10,000 for the furtherance of the interests of homœopathy."

CHAPTER II

THE STORY OF THE SILVER SALE

THE founding of the British Homœopathic Association proved to be the opportunity the friends of Dr. Burnett desired. Among the primary objects of the Association there is one especially designated "for the creation and endowment of Lectureships."

The circular issued by the executive committee of the Association contains the following clause, expressing one of the methods in which it proposes to attain its objects :—

"Clause II. For the permanent endowment of the work a 'Twentieth Century Fund' of at least £10,000 has been inaugurated by the Association. All donations

over £25 are invested. Benefactors endowing in full a Lectureship, or Travelling or Research Scholarship, or any other part of the work, have the right to a permanent seat on the governing body, as well as to have the donor's name permanently incorporated on the title of the endowment. The donation of a capital sum for endowment may, at the benefactor's option, be spread over a period of three years."

This clause suggested to some of Dr. Burnett's friends that the intention of Mr. Walford's proposal might be carried out by raising a fund for endowing one of these chairs in Dr. Burnett's name. Dr. Burnett's friends thereupon guaranteed to raise the necessary amount to endow a chair to be called the *Burnett Professorship of Homœopathic Practice*, and the Committee of the Association cordially accepted the responsibility of administering the trust.

The first move taken to raise the desired

sum was made by Mrs. Clarke, to whom the idea occurred in the autumn of 1902 of holding a sale of silver articles suitable for Christmas and other presents, and of asking all who were interested to purchase them of her instead of going to shops. The articles were to be sold at ordinary prices and not fancy prices, the profits arising from the sale —that is, the difference between manufacturing price and sale price—thus accruing to the fund. Accordingly the following card of invitation was issued :—

BRITISH HOMŒOPATHIC ASSOCIATION.

BURNETT PROFESSORSHIP OF HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE.

Mrs. JOHN H. CLARKE

requests the honour of the presence of

_____ and friends

at a Sale of Silver Articles
which will be held in aid of the above
on Thursday and Friday the 20th and 21st of November,
at the Holborn Viaduct Hotel,
from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
All articles will be marked at the ordinary retail prices and will range from half-a-crown.

30, CLARGES STREET, PICCADILLY.

The card of invitation was accompanied by the following circular :—

"JAMES COMPTON BURNETT MEMORIAL.

"Ever since the lamented death of the late Dr. James Compton Burnett, there has been a feeling among his friends and patients that some permanent memorial should be raised in his honour. The difficulty hitherto felt has been in deciding upon the form which the Memorial should take. It has been suggested that the founding of the British Homœopathic Association affords a fitting solution of this difficulty.

"Dr. Burnett left homœopathy far richer in healing power than he found it; and it has occurred to some of his friends that no more adequate memorial of his greatness of heart and mind could be raised than the foundation of a permanent source of instruction in homœopathic practice.

"The teaching of homœopathic practice is one of the main objects of the British Homœopathic Association, and the Association has undertaken to administer funds collected for this purpose. It has, therefore, been decided by Dr. Burnett's friends to raise a fund to found a Professorship of Homœopathic Practice to bear his name.

"It is in furtherance of this object that Mrs. J. H. Clarke is holding a Sale of Silver Articles.

"If any friends or admirers of the late Dr. Burnett, who may not be able to attend the sale, would wish to contribute to the Memorial, Mrs. Clarke will be happy to receive and acknowledge any contributions sent to her for this object.

"30, Clarges Street, W., Nov. 1, 1902."

The response to this circular was very gratifying. Many touching letters were received from Dr. Burnett's former patients, enclosing donations, the amounts of which will be found in the lists given below.

Cards of invitation were sent to and acknowledged for Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

The invitation to Her Majesty the Queen was accompanied by a letter, of which the following is a copy :—

[*Letter.*]

"30, CLARGES STREET,
"PICCADILLY, W.

"Mrs. John H. Clarke presents her compliments to Miss Knollys, and will be deeply grateful to her if she will kindly submit the enclosed card to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. Mrs. Clarke believes that Her Majesty has taken an interest in homœopathic practice, and trusts that the foundation of the British Homœopathic Association, under the presidency of Earl Cawdor, for establishing a School of Homœopathy, so much needed in London, will meet with Her Majesty's sympathy.

"*November* 6, 1902."

In due course Mrs. Clarke received the following reply :—

"SANDRINGHAM,
"NORFOLK.

"*7th November*, 1902.

"Miss Knollys writes to acknowledge the receipt of Mrs. John H. Clarke's letter and enclosure, and to tell her that she will have much pleasure in submitting the same to the Queen."

The sale, in which Mrs. Clarke had the invaluable assistance of Miss Joplin, Miss Bax-Ironside, Miss C. C. Darby, Miss Bevan, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Synyer, was eminently successful, and as an immediate result Mrs. Clarke was able to hand over to the Burnett Memorial Fund a sum of £203 17s. 6d. But many of Dr. Burnett's old patients and admirers sent donations to the fund, which, by the end of December, 1902, amounted to the additional sum of £118 2s. 4d. This sum has been gradually increasing since that date, and it is hoped that the issue of this volume will accelerate the rate of increase.

CHAPTER III

LIST OF DONATIONS

THE concluding chapter of this section is devoted to a classified list of donations and promises up to the date of publication. The list is divided into two sections—lay and medical.

DONATIONS.

LAY LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Proceeds of Silver Sale	203	17	6
Mrs. Edward Banbury	30	0	0
Sir George Wyatt Truscott	21	0	0
John Grover, Esq....	21	0	0
Miss Garstang	20	0	0
James Epps, Esq.	15	0	0
Hahnemann Epps, Esq.	15	0	0
Messrs. Mowll (of Dover)	10	10	0
Capt. and Mrs. Coryndon P. Boger ...	5	5	0
Mrs. Maitland Wilson	5	5	0
Lady Durning Lawrence	5	0	0
F. Ames, Esq.	5	0	0
Charles Stewart, Esq. (first donation) ...	5	0	0
Mrs. S. J. Stewart...	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	366	17	6
Miss Quincey	5	0	0
The Rev. Vernon L. Guise and Mrs. Guise, of Stopham Rectory	5	0	0
A. E. K.	5	0	0
The Misses Leaf, Worthing	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. James Chester	3	3	0
A. Elliston Fox, Esq.	3	3	0
J. P. Stilwell, Esq., J.P.	2	2	0
Mrs. Pole	2	2	0
T. S. Hall, Esq.	2	2	0
The Misses Berney	2	2	0
Mrs. Dudley Batty	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. H. Woodhill	2	2	0
Major Lister	2	0	0
Mrs. Miller	2	0	0
Miss Cumming	1	1	0
Mrs. Hy. S. Gladstone	1	1	0
Mrs. Edmondes	1	1	0
G. Ashley Dodd, Esq, ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Bader	1	1	0
Mrs. E. Singleton	1	1	0
Major Lister (second donation)	1	1	0
Mrs. Kiver	1	1	0
Rob. Heath, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Julia Berney (second donation) ...	1	1	0
J. H. Maunder, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Thomas	1	1	0
Mrs. Rose	1	1	0
Mrs. Rouse	1	1	0
Rowland Holt Wilson, Esq.	1	1	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	425	10	6
Mrs. Elizabeth Butler, Dublin (annual subs.)	1	1	0
Mrs. Sadler	1	1	0
J. Franklin, Esq., Worthing	1	1	0
Baroness Brantsen	1	0	0
H. D. Wooderson, Esq.	1	0	0
A. T. Cook, Esq., London	1	0	0
Mrs. Bevan	1	0	0
Mrs. Burningham	1	0	0
Miss Sullivan	1	0	0
E. L. Vinden, Esq.	1	0	0
W. Beale, Esq.	0	10	0
Miss Harriet Copeman	0	10	0
Mrs. Emily White	0	10	0
Miss Thornhill	0	5	0
Miss Buss	0	3	0
Mrs. Baildon	0	2	6

PROFESSIONAL LIST.

Dr. J. H. Clarke (the amount of Lecture fees)	21	0	0
Dr. Pullar	5	0	0
J. S. Hurndall, Esq., M.R.C.V.S. ...	3	3	0
Dr. Henry Bennett	2	2	0
Dr. R. Swallow, of Ningpo	2	0	0
	33	5	0
Lay List	437	14	0
Total	£470	19	0

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